

REMARKS

The application is to be amended without prejudice or disclaimer as previously set forth, which should not be viewed as narrowing or limiting the claims. The amendments are sought to conform the application to a form more consistent with Office practice by removing multiple dependencies. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments. Should the Office determine that additional issues remain, which might be resolved by a telephone conference, it is respectfully invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosure: Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

NA21834951\Preliminary Amendment.wpd

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for selecting [a domestic] an animal for having desired genotypic properties comprising testing said animal for the presence of a parentally imprinted quantitative trait locus (QTL).
2. (Amended) [A] The method according to claim 1, further comprising testing a nucleic acid sample from said animal for the presence of a [parentally imprinted quantitative trait locus (QTL)].
3. (Amended) [A] The method according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein said animal comprises a pig and in [the] said pig said QTL is located at chromosome 2.
4. (Amended) [A] The method according to claim [2 or 3] 1 wherein said animal comprises a pig and in said pig said QTL [is mapping] maps at [around] about position 2p1.7.
5. (Amended) [A] The method according to claim 1 [to 4] wherein said QTL is related to the potential muscle mass and/or fat deposition of said animal.
6. (Amended) [A] The method according to claim 5 wherein said QTL comprises at least a part of an insulin-like growth factor-2 [(IGF2)]gene.
7. (Amended) [A] The method according to [anyone of claims] claim 1 [to 6] wherein said animal comprises a pig and in [the] said pig said QTL comprises a marker characterized as nt241(G-A) or as Swc9[, as identified in figure 4].

8. (Amended) [A] The method according to [anyone of claims 1-7] claim 1 wherein a paternal allele of said QTL is predominantly expressed in said animal.
9. (Amended) [A] The method according to [anyone of claims 1-7] claim 1 wherein a maternal allele of said QTL is predominantly expressed in said animal.
10. (Amended) An isolated and/or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a parentally imprinted quantitative trait locus (QTL) or a functional fragment [derived thereof] of said QTL comprising genetic information capable of influencing a quantitative trait of an animal.
11. (Amended) An isolated and/or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a synthetic parentally imprinted quantitative trait locus (QTL) derived from at least one chromosome or a functional fragment [derived thereof.] of said chromosome comprising genetic information capable of influencing a quantitative trait of an animal.
12. (Amended) [A] The isolated and/or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 10 [or 11] at least partly derived from a *Sus scrofa* chromosome.
13. (Amended) [A] The isolated and/or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 12 wherein said nucleic acid is at least partly derived from a *Sus scrofa* chromosome 2[, preferably from a region mapping at around position 2p1.7].
14. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid according to [any one of claims] claim 10 [to 13] wherein said QTL is related to the potential muscle mass and/or fat deposition of said animal.
15. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid according to [any one of claims] claim 10 [to 14] wherein said QTL comprises at least a part of [a] an insulin-like growth factor-2 [(IGF2)] gene.

16. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid according to [anyone of claims] claim 10 [to 15] wherein a paternal allele of said QTL is capable of being predominantly expressed.

17. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid according to [anyone of claims] claim 10 [to 16] wherein a maternal allele of said QTL is capable of being predominantly expressed.

24. (Amended) A transgenic animal comprising the isolated and/or recombinant [a] nucleic acid according to claim 11 [anyone of claims 11 to 16].

25. (Amended) [An animal] The transgenic animal according to [anyone of claims 21-24 which] claim 24 wherein said transgenic animal is a male.

26. (Amended) Sperm or an embryo derived from [an] the transgenic animal according to [anyone of claims 21-25] claim 24.

27. (Amended) [Use of a sperm or an embryo according to claim 26 in] A method for breeding animals destined for slaughter comprising utilizing the sperm or embryo according to claim 26.